

Tobacco Tid-Bits

Tobacco Free Coalitions of Clark County and Skamania County
Clark County Health Department • Tobacco Prevention Program

Issue 46

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Pierce County Smoking Ban May be Revived

The state Court of Appeals has agreed to consider allowing the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to reinstitute its controversial countywide indoor smoking ban. A Pierce County Superior Court Judge overturned the ban in January after the Olympia-based Entertainment Industry Coalition sued the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Board of Health. The ban had been in effect for only three weeks. Court of Appeals Commissioner Ernetta Skerlec will consider the Health Department's request for an emergency stay on the Superior Court decision on February 26. No matter how she rules, the Department plans to ask the state Supreme Court to consider overturning the Superior Court ruling. In the mean time, the Snohomish County Tribune reports that Snohomish County plans to put an initiative on the ballot to ban smoking in public places. We'll keep you posted.

Oregon's Cigarette Tax Lowers Due to Measure 30 Failure

Measure 30, Oregon's Bipartisan Balanced Budget Plan was recently defeated by voters, putting an \$800 million hole in their state budget. In terms of tobacco, Measure 30's defeat means the 10-cent cigarette surtax "sunsetted" or ended, effective 1/1/04. Oregon's cigarette tax is now \$1.18. Oregon is the first state in a decade to LOWER its cigarette tax. All the revenue from that tax went to support the Oregon Health Plan. So far, it is unclear how this will affect cigarette prices for consumers. It is possible prices will remain the same and retailers might just pocket the 10-cents, rather than pass the savings on to cigarette consumers. The Tobacco Free Coalition of Oregon Policy Committee has been having conversations with key legislators over the past months about reinstating the tax if Measure 30 failed, according to Debbie Kaufman of TOFCO. While some legislators have expressed support for the tax, it is neither uniform nor certain. For more information contact: Debbie Kaufman at 503.238.7706/888-846-5437.

Youth Corner

The American Cancer Society hosted its youth SpeakOut workshop on January 31. Three new BREATHE members (Corrine Meyer, Cortney Tinsay and Micheal Brown) and one MASH member (Brier Campbell) participated. Two BREATHE members (Breanna Dupuis and Joe Jenkins) gave a presentation on becoming a youth advocate and working with city councils on implementing voluntary smoke free zones in parks. They drew on their own experiences with this process. Approximately 20 youth from all over southwest Washington attended. "BREATHE and MASH members learned a lot about leadership and tobacco information, and had lots of fun," said James Kisse, health educator with the Clark County Health Department. In February, youth helped conduct tobacco retailer checks at all of Skamania County's 11 stores. One retailer sold resulting in a 91% compliance rate with the law. "This is the best rate we have ever had when conducting state mandated checks," said Kisse. The rate last year in Skamania County was 73%. Federal law requires states to keep compliance check rates at 80% or greater. For more information about BREATHE and MASH youth tobacco prevention groups or retailer checks, contact James Kisse at: 360.397.8214.



Time to Start Thinking About World No Tobacco Day

World No Tobacco Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 31st. The event is sponsored by the World Health Organization. Each year, WHO designates a theme for World No Tobacco Day. This year the theme is the connection between tobacco and poverty around the world. The United States has selected a related theme: "Up in Smoke – Tobacco's Cost to the Family." Check the website for a turn-key idea kit with examples of local activities that you may consider using in your community. Each suggestion includes a description of the concept, steps to rolling out the activity, hints, and some anticipated outcomes. The kit is divided into youth and adult-oriented activities. It also includes tips for increasing media coverage, information about celebrities who have died from tobacco-related diseases, and strategies to support World No Tobacco Day on behalf of WHO. Just log onto: www.wntd.com

Tobacco Quit Line
877-270-STOP
toll-free 7 8 6 7
QUITLINE.COM

Who is Calling the Quit Line?

There were 13,591 total calls to the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line in 2003; 775 were from Clark County, 41 from Skamania County. For the last quarter of 2003, of the 2,943 total calls, 86 (8%) were from Clark County. Information gathered at the time of the call indicates most callers are either uninsured or receive Medicaid, versus being privately insured. Over 90% of Quit Line callers are white. An overwhelming majority of the calls are from women. In Skamania County, all callers were over 35 years of age. In Clark County, 59% of the calls were from the over 35 age group, and 41% from callers 34 years and younger.

Smoking Outdoors Still Harms Kids

Even when parents take their smoking outdoors, new research shows it does not prevent their children from being exposed to nicotine. Researchers at Linköping University in Sweden measured the nicotine levels in urine samples of children whose parents smoked outdoors with the door closed and compared them to children of nonsmokers. They found that children whose parents smoked outside had twice as much cotinine, a chemical formed when the body breaks down nicotine, in their bodies as the children of nonsmokers. The study concluded: "There really is no substitute for giving up smoking altogether - it's a win-win situation for the whole family." (BBC 2/11/04)

Smoking Ban in Cars with Children

On a 9-0 vote, the Georgia House of Representatives' Transportation Committee passed a bill that would ban smoking in private vehicles where children are passengers. The measure comes with a \$15 fine for drivers who smoke when they have children in the car and fail to roll down the windows. Representative Paul Smith (D-Rome) said the Bill is aimed at protecting children from the dangers of secondhand smoke. If it passes both houses of the Georgia Legislature it will become law, making Georgia the first state in the nation to have such a ban. (AP 2/4/04)



Clark County Health Department
2000 Fort Vancouver Way
Vancouver, WA 98663

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program's 2004 Conference

Register now for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program 2004 conference, "Changing the Environment: Policies, People, Practices." The conference will be held March 23-25 at the SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel and is open to all community, tribal and Educational Service District tobacco contractors, as well as other partners in tobacco prevention and control. Conference online registration and information is available <http://www.wright-comm.com/tobaccoconf/index.htm> Registration closes March 5.

What the Warning Label Doesn't Tell You

Young people need to know that smoking negatively affects virtually every part of the body. The American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) explains the extent to which smoking damages their health in a new teen oriented book, "Cigarettes: What the Warning Label Doesn't Tell You - Information Tobacco Companies Don't Want Teens to Know About the Dangers of Smoking." The book describes what teens should understand about the extensive hazards of smoking. Some teens may know about lung cancer and emphysema, but most don't recognize the numerous other diseases and conditions smoking causes: from decreased physical fitness and fertility to an increased risk of respiratory infections, surgical complications, loss of vision, and multiple sclerosis. ACSH's book serves as an exhaustive guide offering clear, concise details of the medical consequences of cigarette smoking. The book has been reviewed by top physicians and scientists in their respective fields for the most up to date information on the adverse effects of smoking. And, it includes chapters on addiction, secondhand smoke and tobacco products other than cigarettes. For more information and to access an online printer-friendly version of the text, visit <http://acsh.org/publications/books/teens/index.html>.



News From Olympia

The American Lung Association of Washington wants to take secondhand smoke off the menu in Washington's restaurants and bars. During this legislative session, there were two bills re-introduced that would prohibit smoking in all indoor public places throughout Washington State. Both House Bill 1868 and Senate Bill 5791 support prohibiting smoking in all indoor public places in Washington State, including restaurants, bars, bowling alleys and skating rinks. HB 5791 died in the Senate and advocates are working to get HB 1868 added to a concurrent resolution - a list of bills that both houses would look at later in the session, according to the Yakima Herald. Only a small number of bills are put on the concurrent resolution list. The advocacy group Citizens for Clean Indoor Air has scheduled organizational meetings in March to begin planning for a statewide initiative campaign to ban smoking in all public places if HB 1868 fails, according to Washington BREATHE Alliance. This would allow the public to weigh in on the issue with their votes. There is also a long shot possibility the legislature will try to put the measure on the November ballot. For more information about these bills and other policies the American Lung Association of Washington is supporting visit: www.alaw.org/legnet or Washington BREATHE Alliance at: www.wabreathe.org

Resource Fair for Hispanic Community

The Latino Community Resources Group will hold a Resource Fair for the Hispanic community Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at De Leon's Tortilleria y Tienda, 2519 NE Fourth Plain Blvd. in Vancouver. Information and resources on a variety of topics will be provided including: tobacco prevention, cessation and secondhand smoke information, medical assistance, immigration, how to open a bank account, medical coverage for children and teens, employment and education, English classes, and more. For more information contact: Johnnie Tucker, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Services, 360.696.8558

Health Department Changing E-mail Addresses

The Clark County Health Department is slowly transitioning over to new e-mail software and employee e-mail addresses are changing as well. The new e-mails end with @clark.wa.gov instead of @swwhd.wa.gov. For example, Theresa Cross' new address is Theresa.Cross@clark.wa.gov. James Kissee can now be reached at James.Kissee@clark.wa.gov and James Lanz at James.Lanz@clark.wa.gov. Eventually, everyone in the Health Department will have new e-mail addresses. We will keep you updated as the tobacco contacts we regularly list in this newsletter transition over.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/04 Tobacco Free Coalition of Skamania County**, Skamania Co. Sheriff's Dept. - 3:30 -4:45 PM Contact: James Lanz 360.397.8416
- 3/08 "Working with Diverse Populations"**, SeaTac Double Tree Hotel, 9:30-3:30. Info: Tobacco Prevention and Resource Center 206.447.1755
- 3/11 Schools Task Force meeting**, Clark County Health Dept. Garden Conf. Rm. 7:30 -9 AM
Contact: Theresa Cross 360.397.8215 x3178
- 3/18 TAP training**, Clark County Voc. Skills Center, Mt. Hood Rm. 8:30 - 3:30 PM Cost: \$10 per participant (includes lunch)
Contact: Sherri Boylan, ESD 112, 360.750.7500 x133
- 3/20 Hispanic Community Resource Fair**, De Leon's Tortilleria y Tienda, 2519 NE Fourth Plain Blvd, Vancouver, 10 -3 PM.
Contact: Johnnie Tucker, Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Services 360.696.8558
- 3/31 Kick Butts Day**, theme is "Stand up, Speak Out, Seize Control." Info at www.kickbutts.org

Please let us know about your upcoming tobacco-related events so we can post them here